

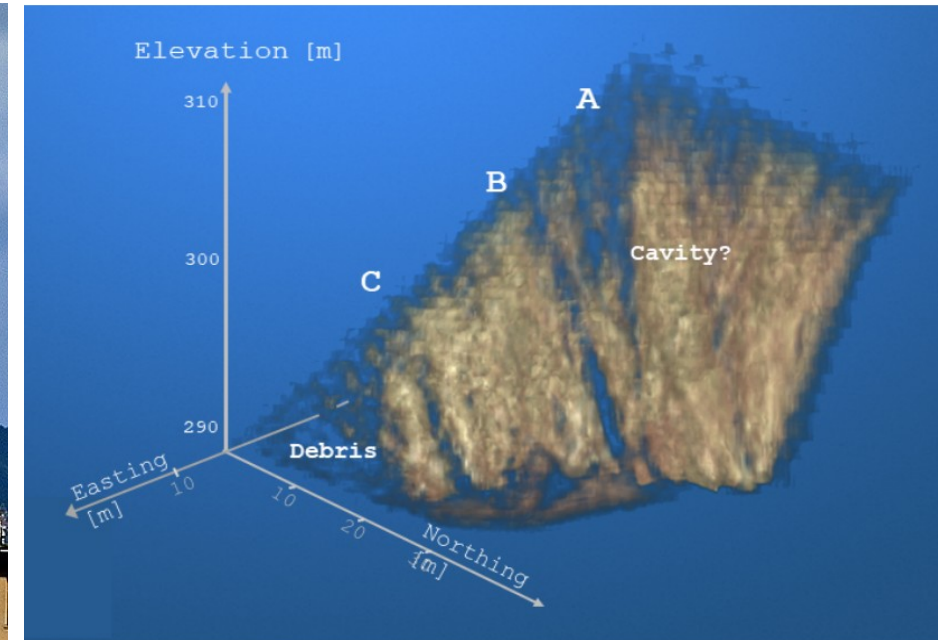
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MUOGRAPHERS
2026
Budapest

Key words:
Regularization, Bias,
Covariance, Artifacts

Experiences with tomographic inversion of subsurface muographic measurements (bias and artifacts)

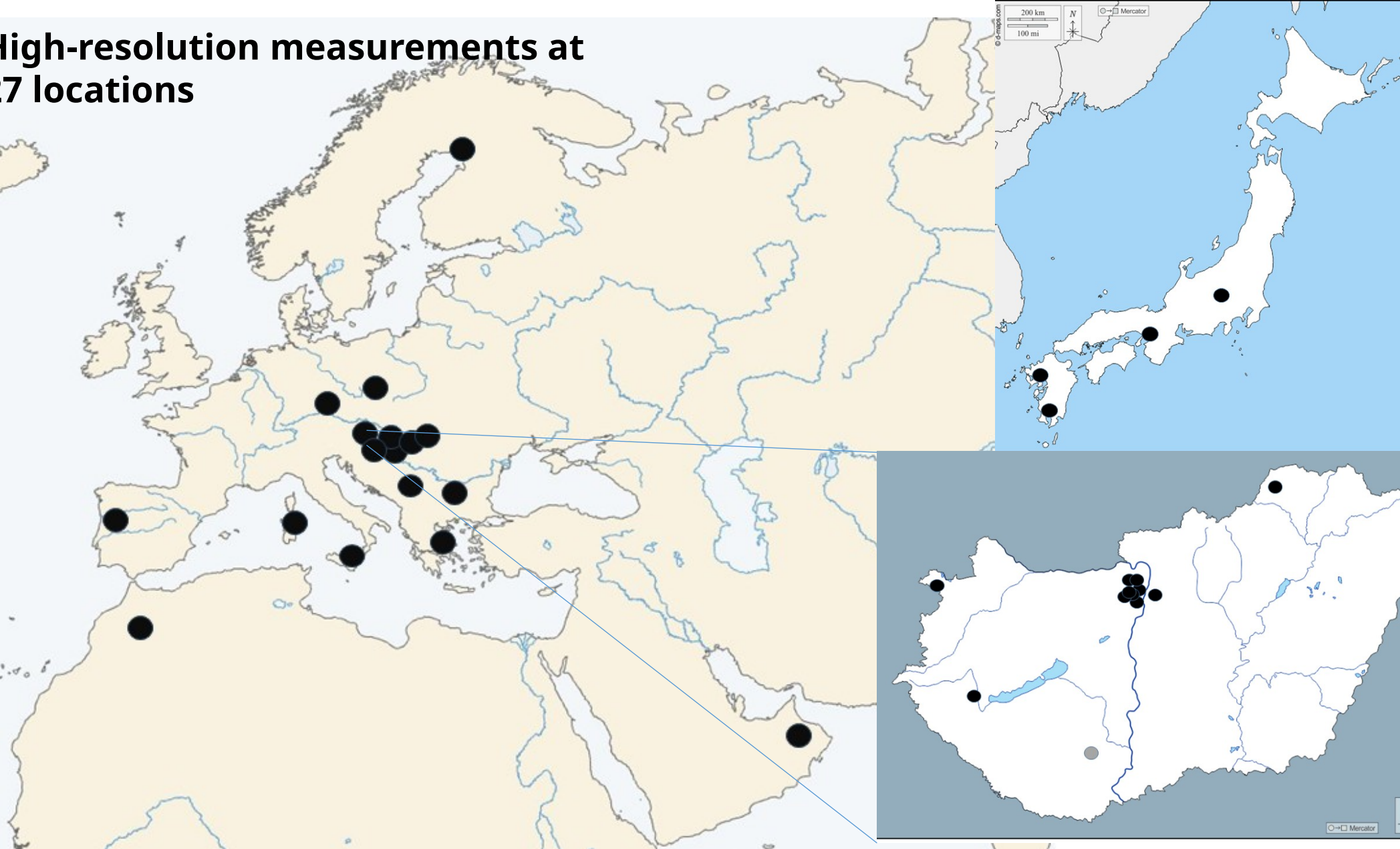


HIGH-ENERGY GEOPHYSICS RESEARCH GROUP
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INNOVATIVE GASEOUS DETECTOR DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Muon tomography: experiences (Muographic projects)

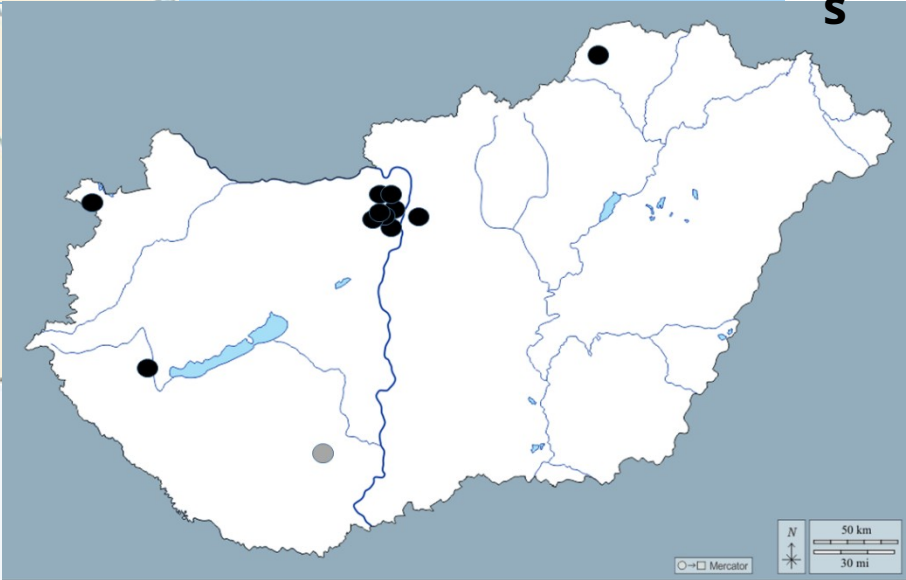


High-resolution measurements at 27 locations

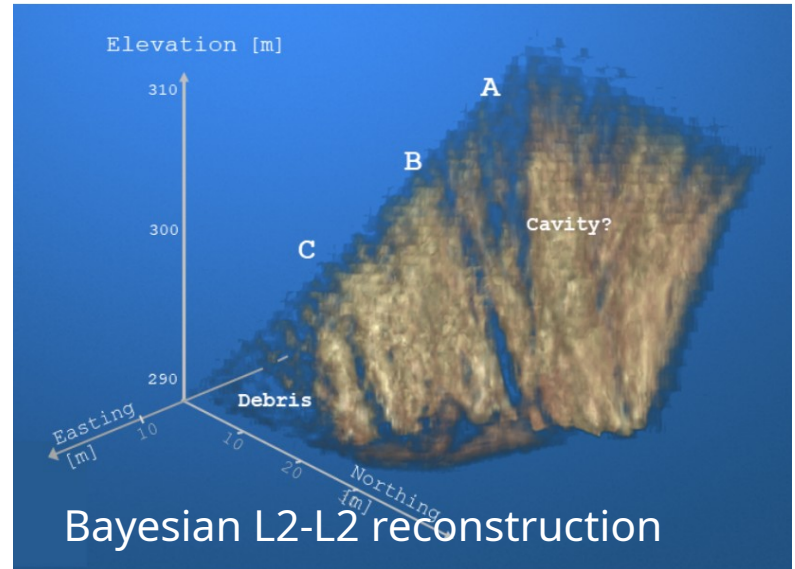
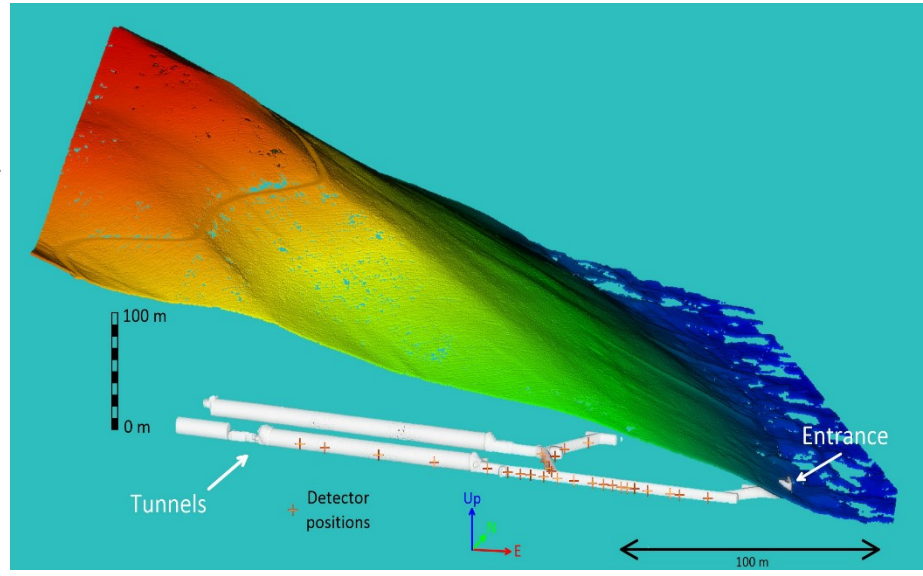
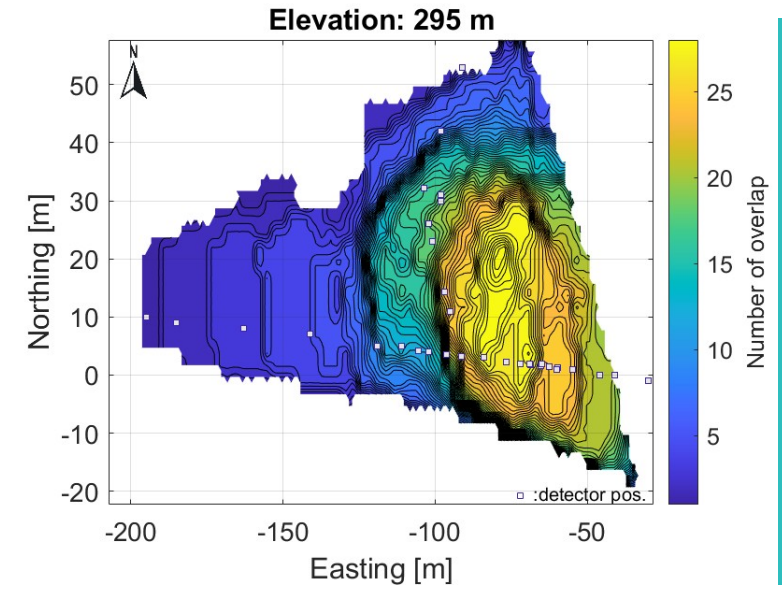
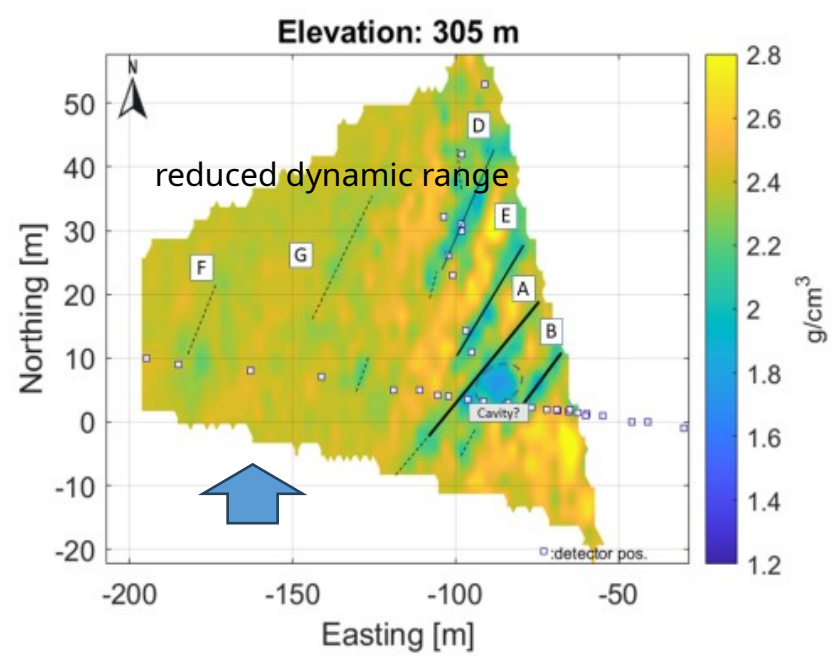
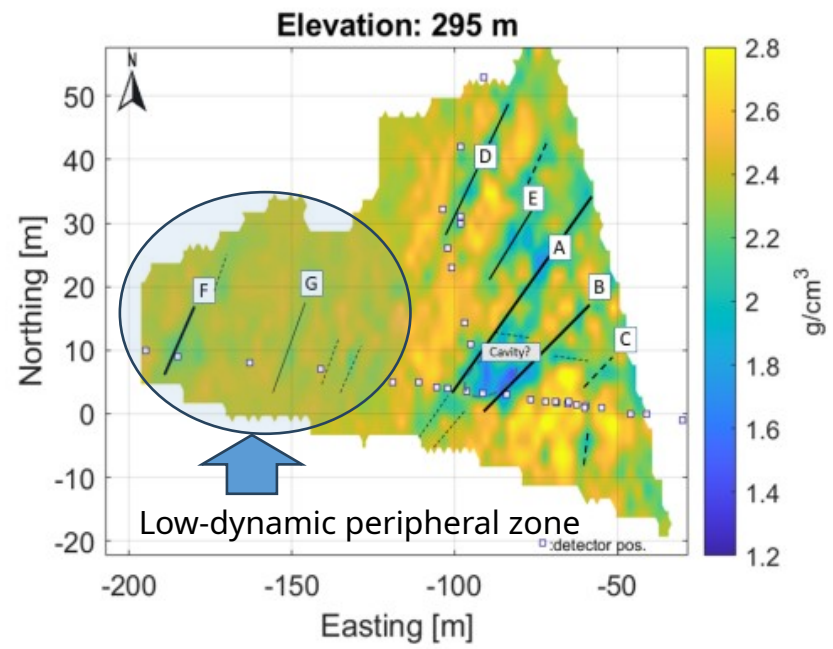
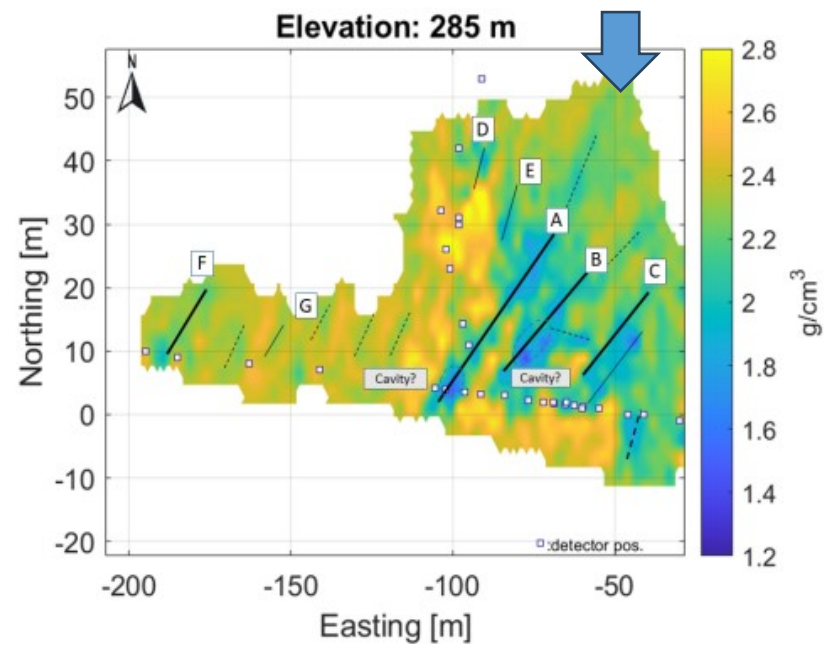


Hundreds of measurement campaigns

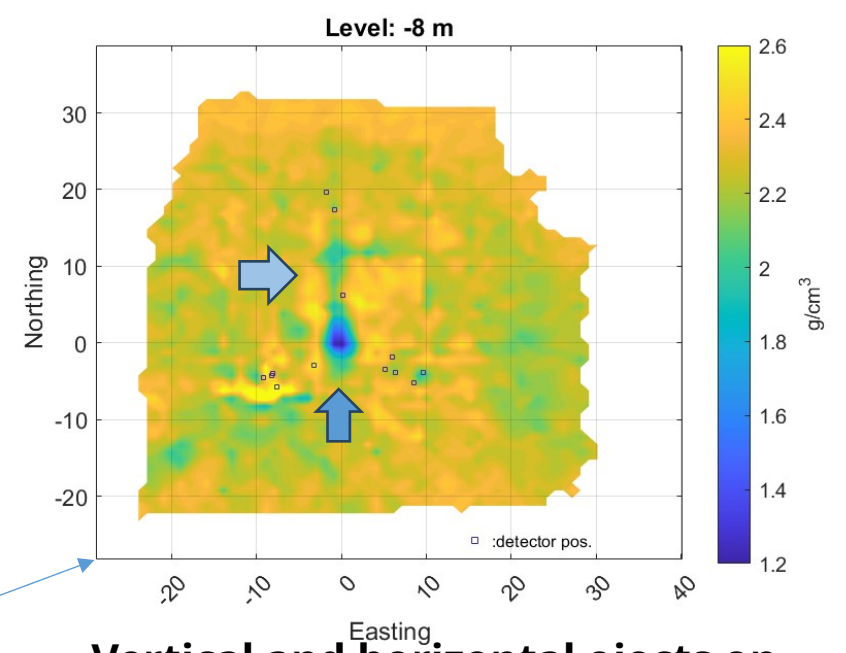
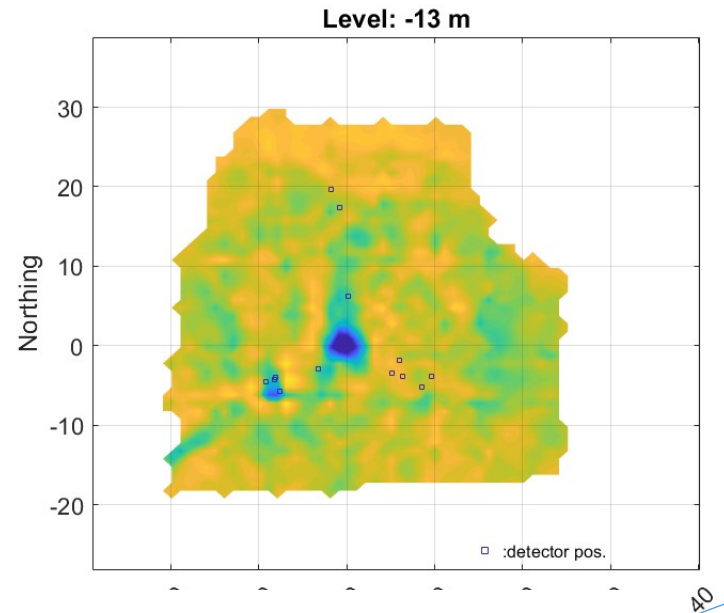
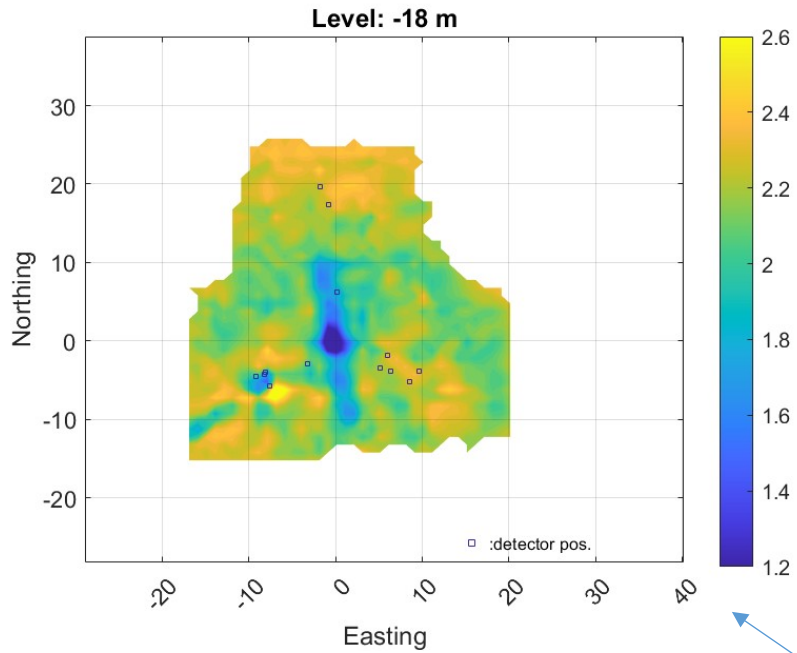
High resolution measurements
In extreme environments



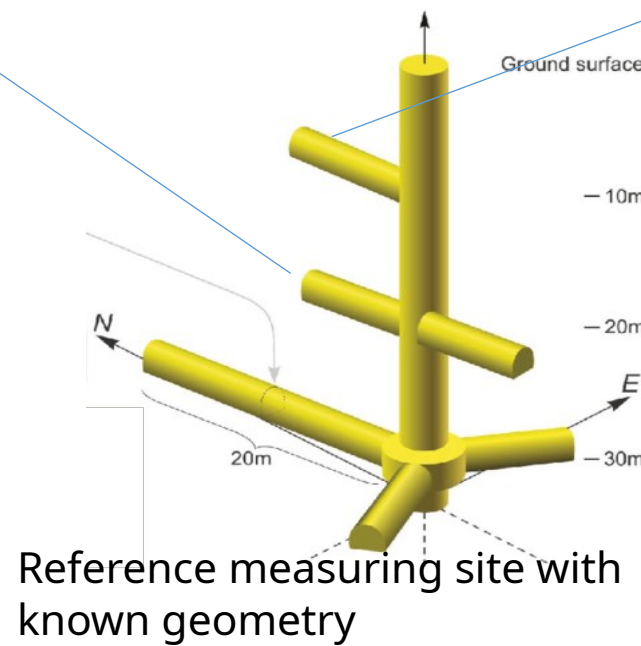
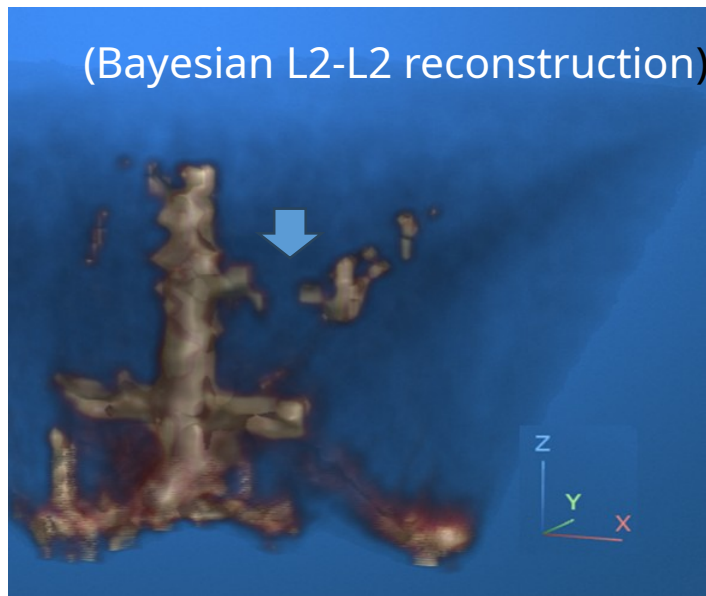
Muon tomography: Muographic projects (Budapest, Hármashill)



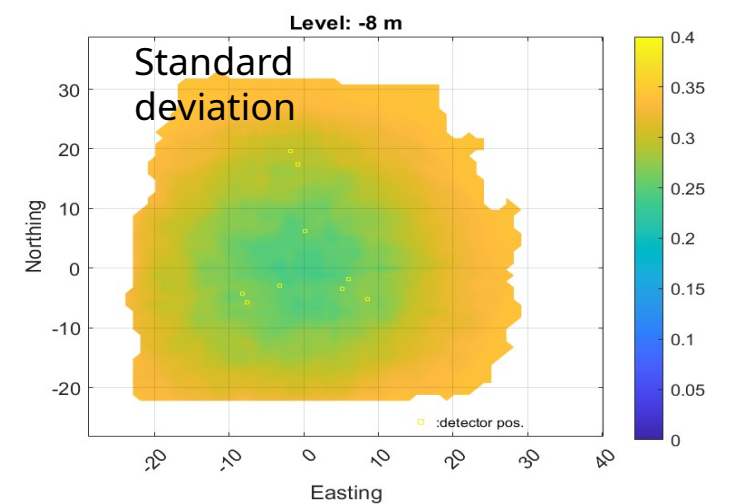
Muon tomography: Muographic projects: Jánosy Underground Lab.



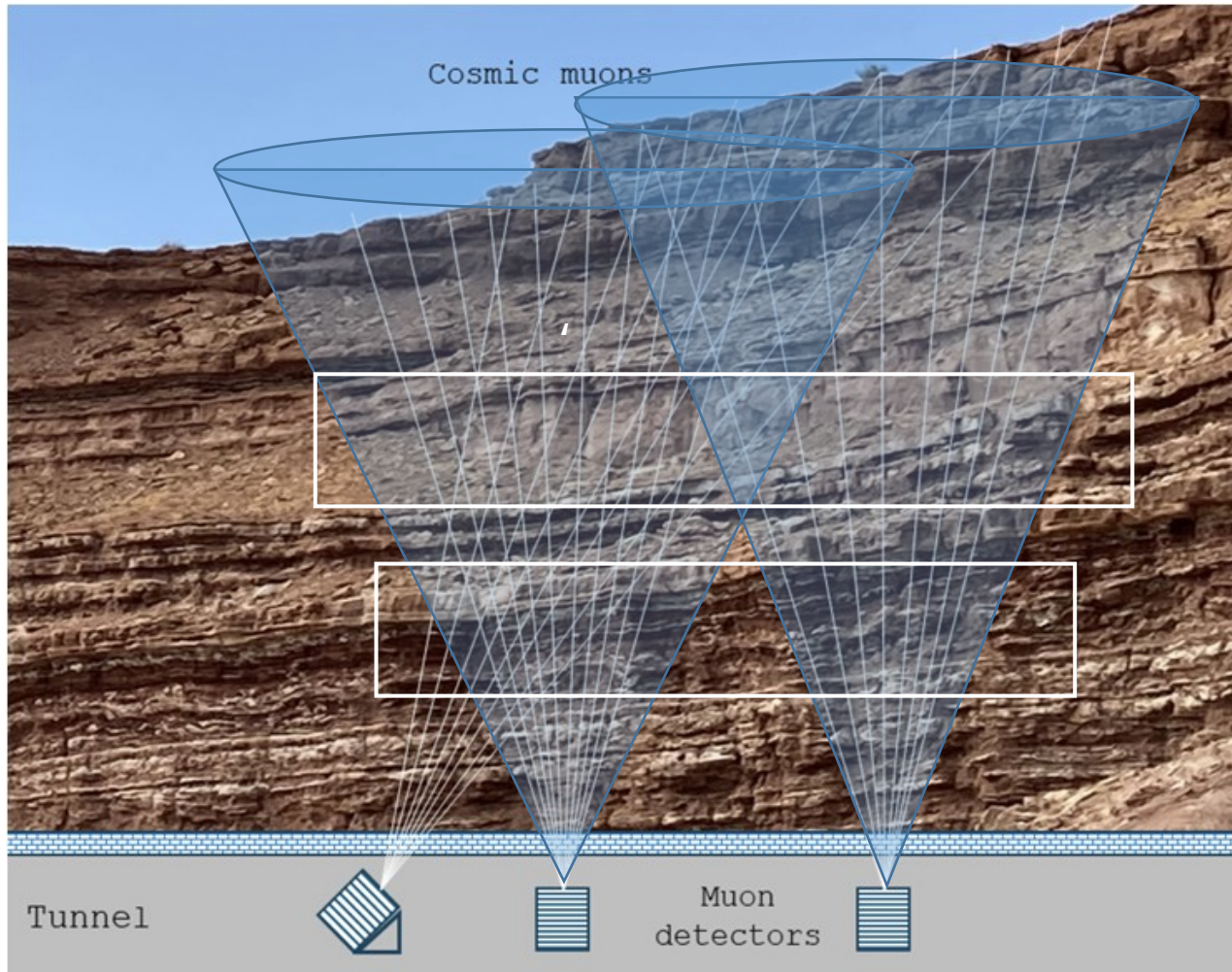
Vertical and horizontal objects on 3D tomographic results



Reference measuring site with known geometry



Muon tomography: What is causing the problem?



Limited number of measuring position
with limited measurement time

Limited azimuth range
(sampling problem)

**Interchangeable subsets
in the solution set** (on the same
set of trajectory)

**Jacobian (permutation)
symmetry**

(equivalences)

High-dimensional null space

(with vertically oriented base vectors)

Nullity > Rank situation

**Singular pseudo
inverse**

Regularization is necessary, with all
that it entails

Muon tomography: Tomographic inverse problem



Linearized direct problem
of discrete tomography

Density length error
distribution

prior
distribution

(informative or
noninformative,
generally
smooth)

Pixel-voxel
transformation

$$\mathbf{F}\mathbf{q} = \boldsymbol{\gamma}$$

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_\gamma)$$

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{q}_0, \mathbf{C}_0)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{q}} = \min_{\mathbf{q}} \arg_{\mathbf{q}} \left\{ \overset{\text{ML-term (loss)}}{(\boldsymbol{\gamma} - \mathbf{F}\mathbf{q})^T \mathbf{C}_\gamma^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\gamma} - \mathbf{F}\mathbf{q})} + \overset{\text{Prior-term}}{(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_0)^T \mathbf{C}_0^{-1} (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_0)} \right\}$$

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{C}_\gamma^{-1} \mathbf{F}$$

Fisher-
matrix

$$\hat{\mathbf{q}} = (\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{C}_0^{-1})^{-1} (\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{C}_\gamma^{-1} \boldsymbol{\gamma} + \mathbf{C}_0^{-1} \mathbf{q}_0)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{\mathbf{q}}) = (\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{C}_0^{-1})^{-1} (\mathbf{R}\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{C}_0^{-1} \mathbf{q}_0)$$

The result vector is the weighted sum of the two types of information (flexibility)

From the null space, prior selects one element \sim
NS(prior)

Unique solution with prior dependent bias

Muon tomography: Error term: bias and variance



The source of bias is always a real and

Bias

$$\delta \hat{\varrho} = (R + C_0^{-1})^{-1} C_0^{-1} (\varrho_0 - \varrho)$$

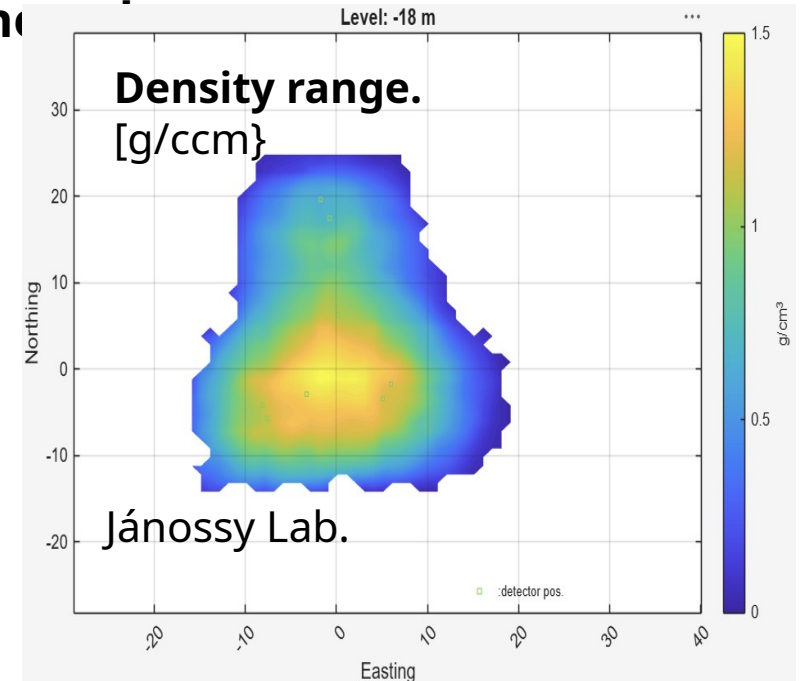
$$C_{\hat{\varrho}} = (R + C_0^{-1})^{-1}$$

Parameter Covariance-matrix

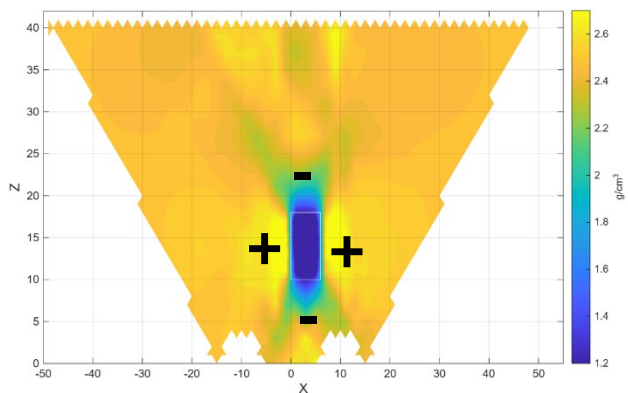
Posterior distribution

Formally, variance and bias are linked through the covariance matrix „Trade-off”

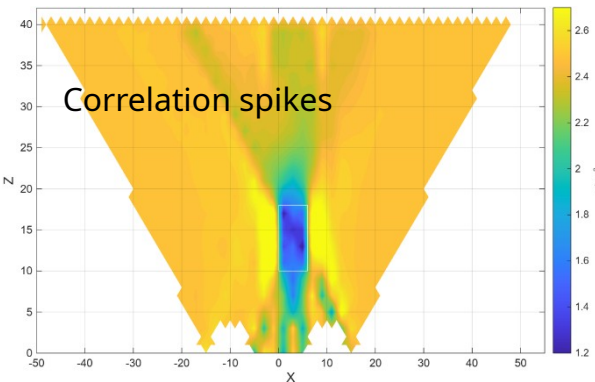
„point” spread function (on Simulated 2D inversion)



Localized inversion



Non localized inversion



Result of regularization: Smoothing around the prior: **dynamic range compression + Fisher-matrix baked correlations**

Anomaly leak along the trajectories
Anomaly at the detector position:
Compensation artifact

Key inversion algorithms

- SVD: Spectral Value Decomposition
- Tikhonov-type regularization
- Bayes-type estimation (Geologic prior)
- Filtered Back Projection
- Expectation Maximalization (MLEM)
- Early stop Iterations

+ bias reduction post process

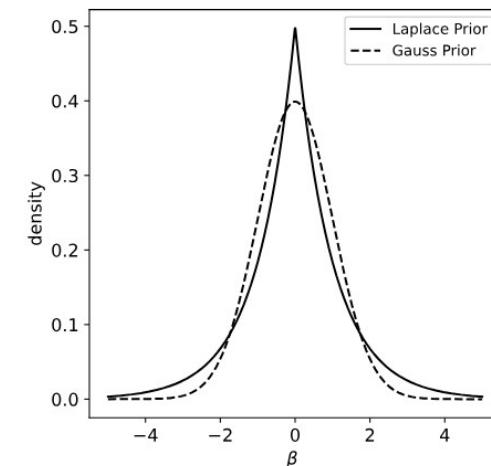
Metric and pdf

Gauss or Mixed Gaussian norm	L2
Laplacean norm	L1

Prior

- Minimum norm
- Smoothness (spatial correlations)
- Prior density distribution (large scale geology)
- Z dependent
- Fisher inform

Because of fan-shaped imaging



Sparsity handling

Muon tomography: **Voxel grid and adaptive prior**

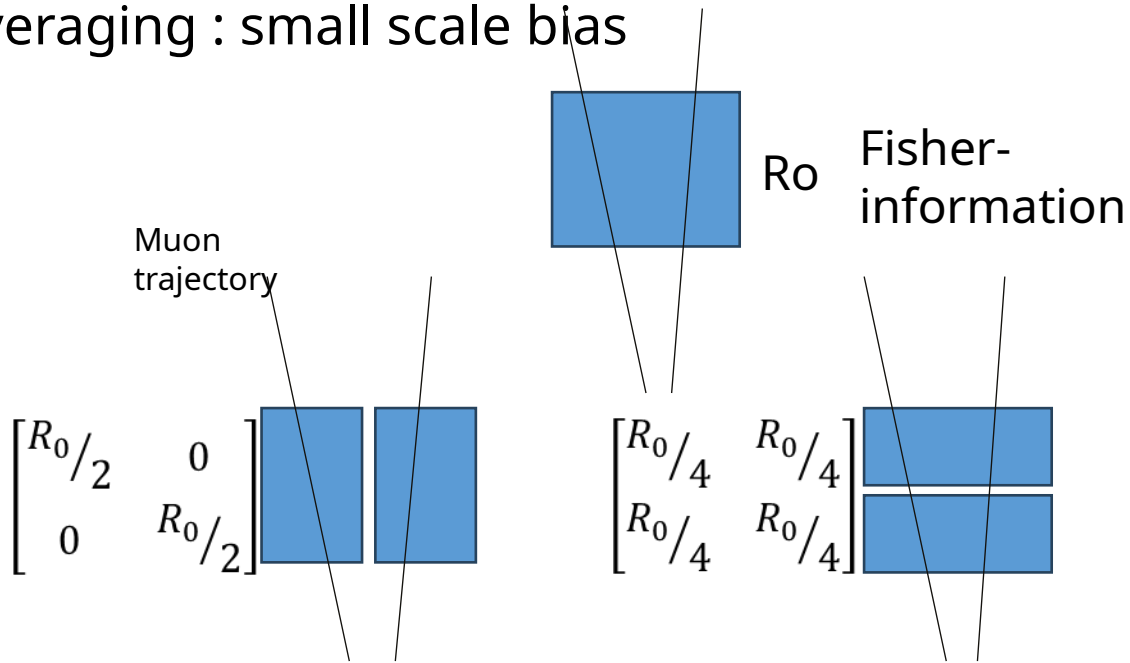


The prior distribution relates to voxel based densities, so it depends on the voxel size.

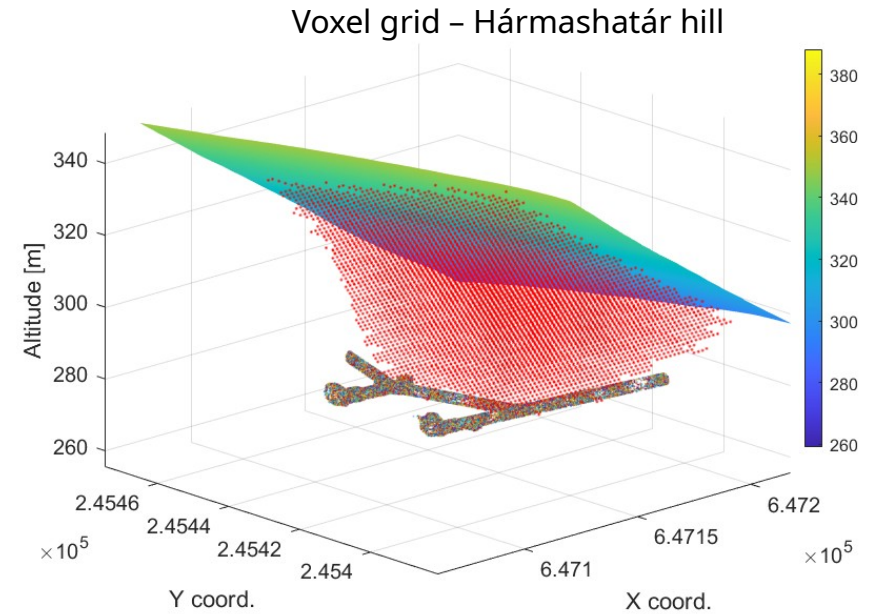
Dependence requires an appropriate **averaging model**.

(scalable prior)

Averaging : small scale bias

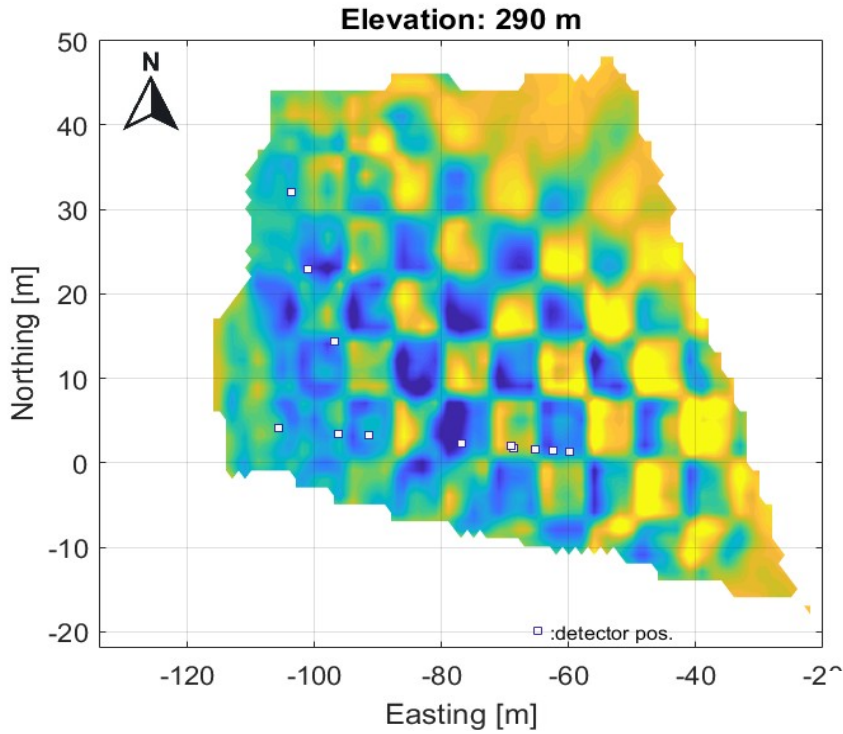


Information loss and voxel split

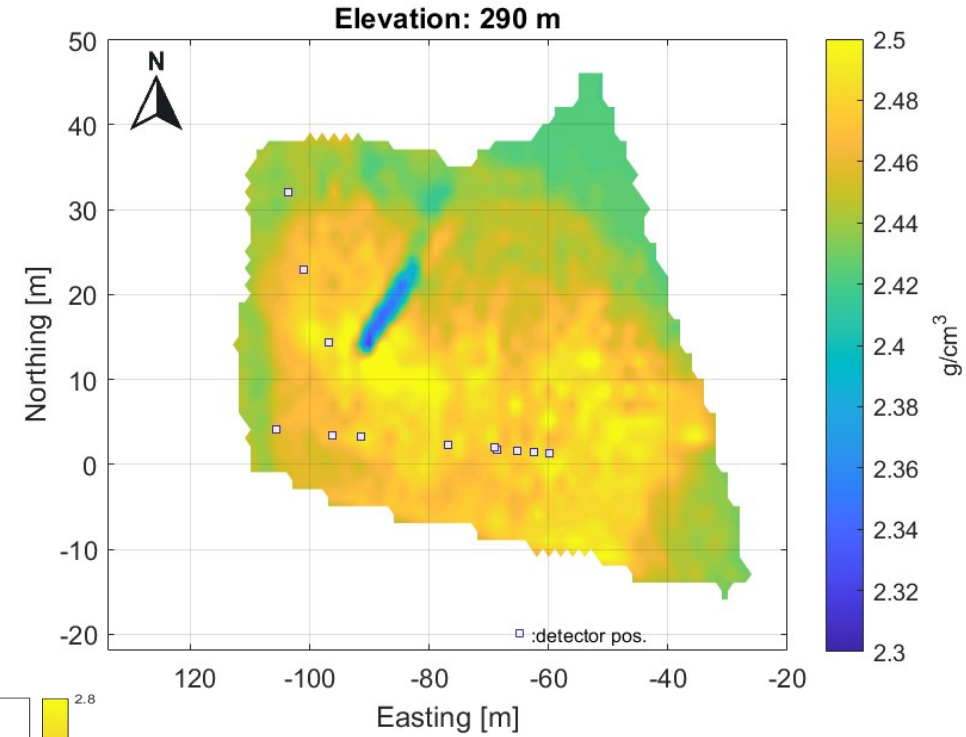


An overly refined model increases the correlation among voxel elements. Changing the correlation structure (associated with the mapping) can reduce the rank of the Fisher matrix

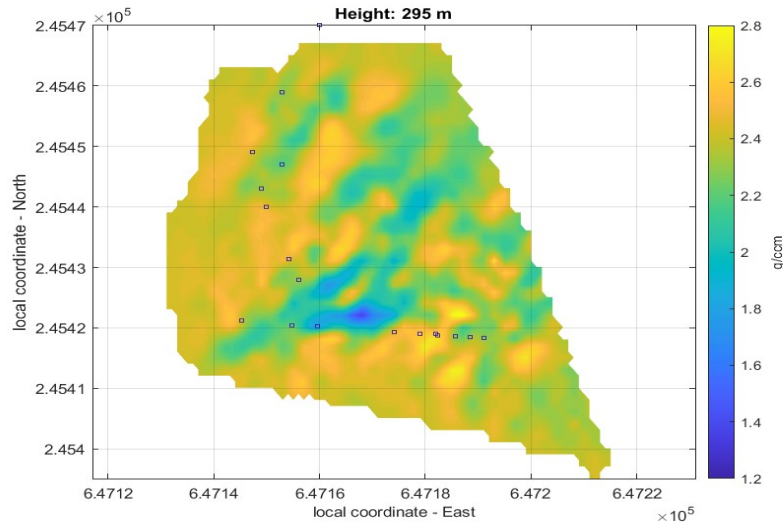
Muon tomography: Simulation and tests



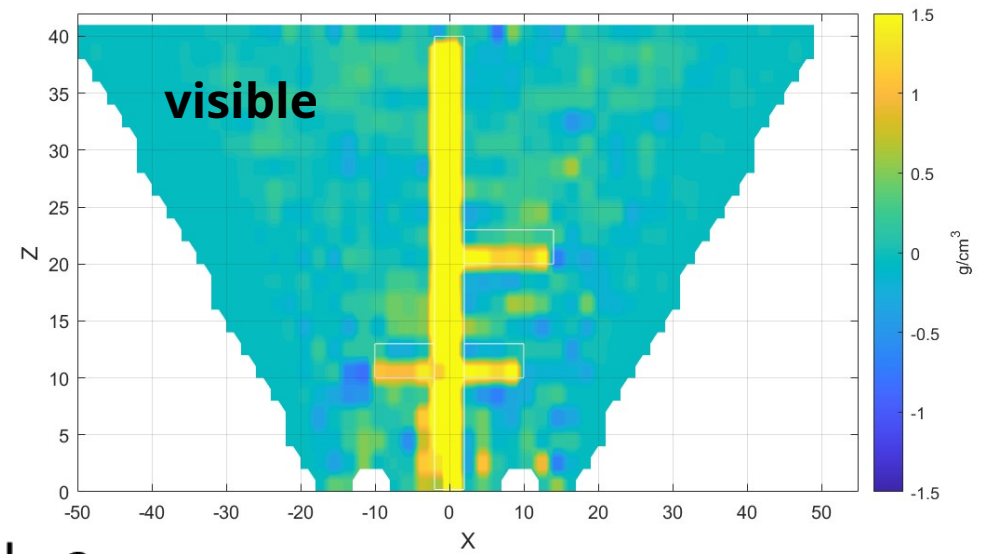
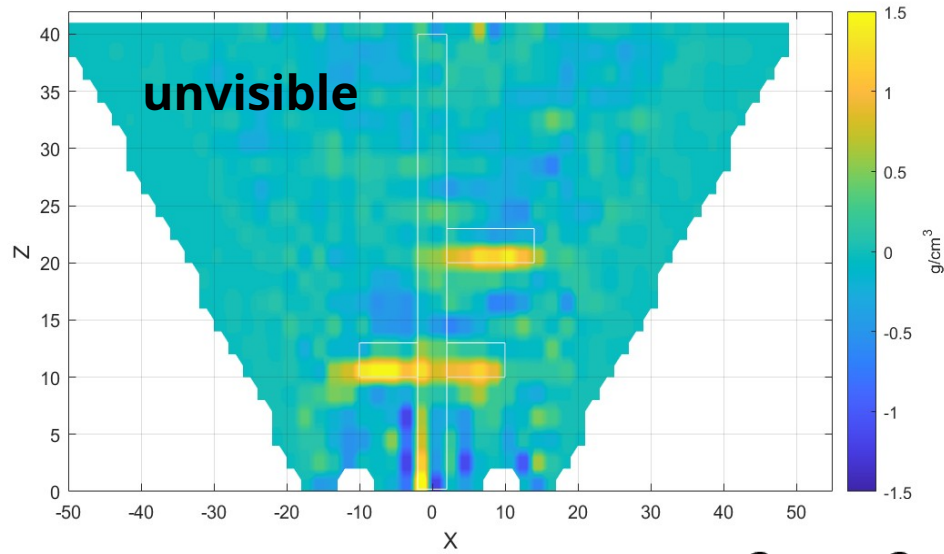
Chessboard-test
For focus range
definition
(Bias mapping)



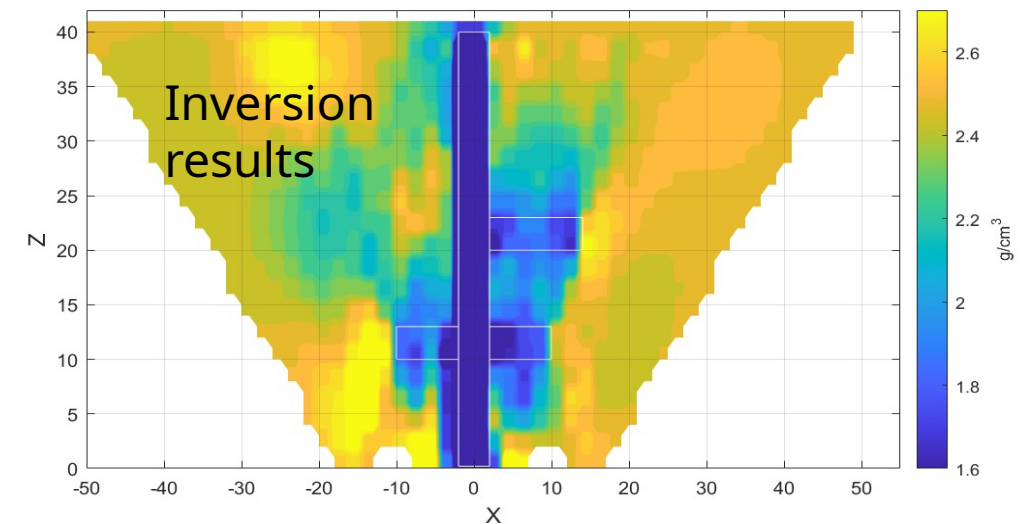
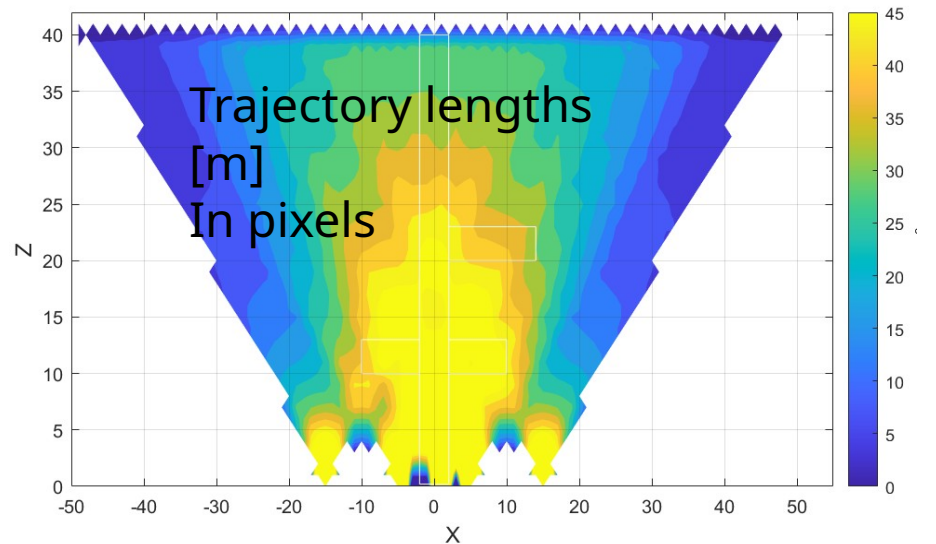
Fault-test for detectability
(Hármashatár hill)
The detection limit changes
with the regularization
parameters



Muon tomography: Horizontal and vertical object distortion

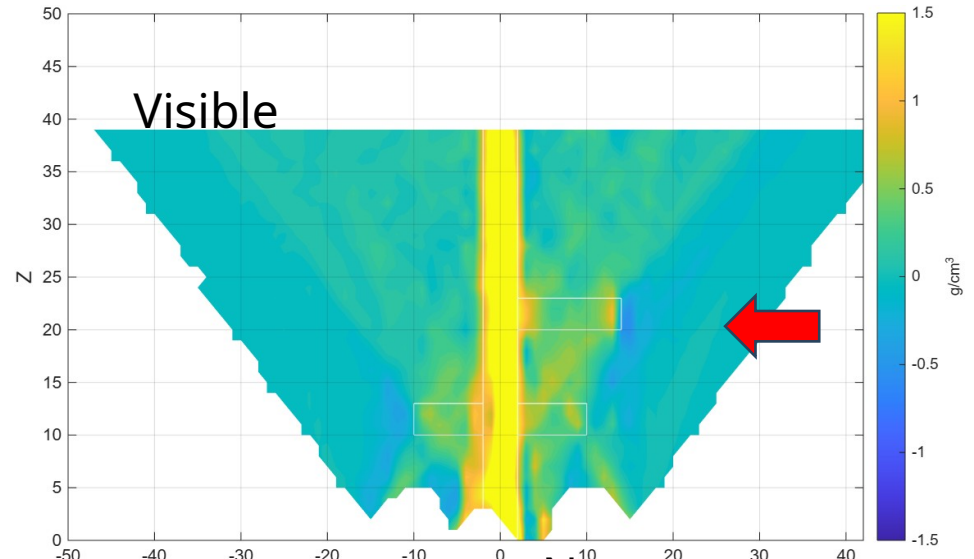
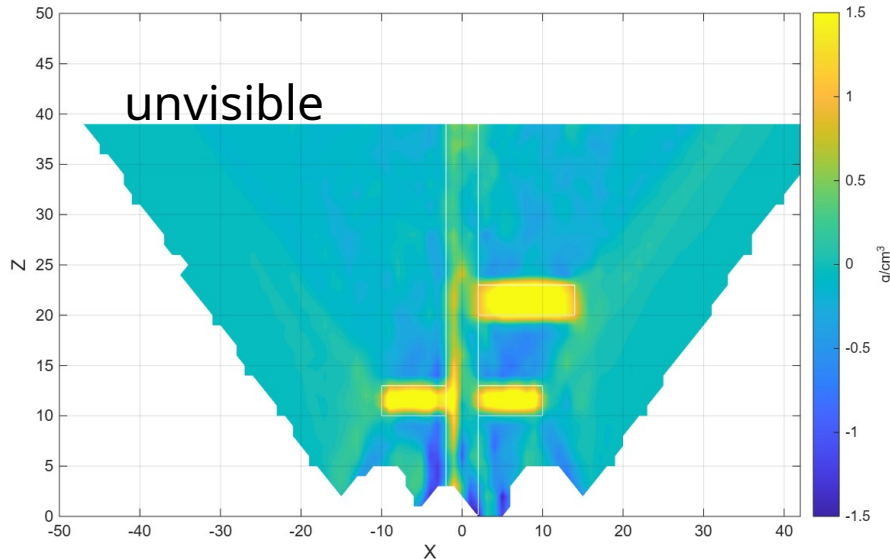


$$Q = Q_{visible} + Q_{invisible}$$

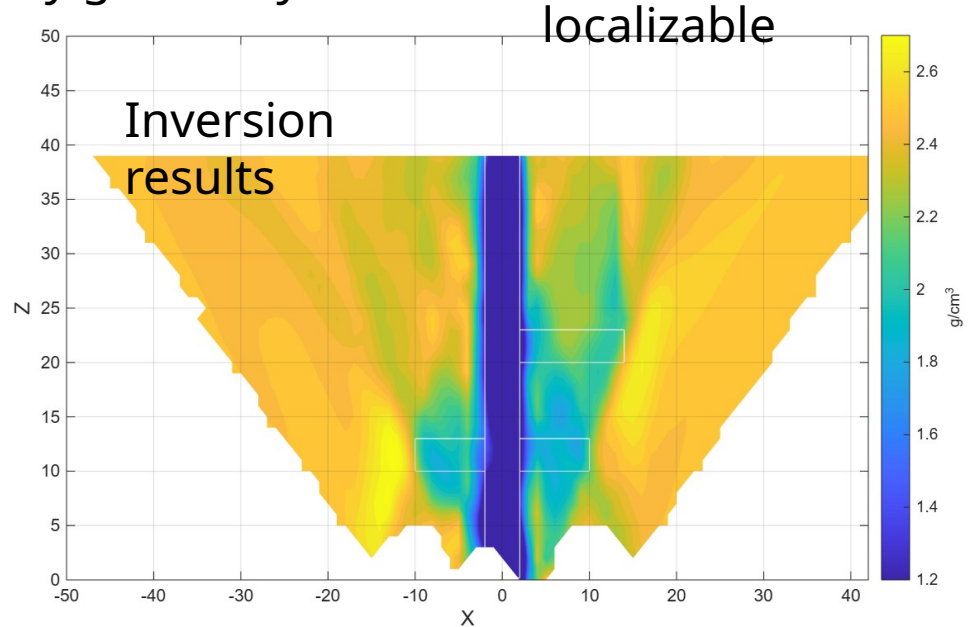
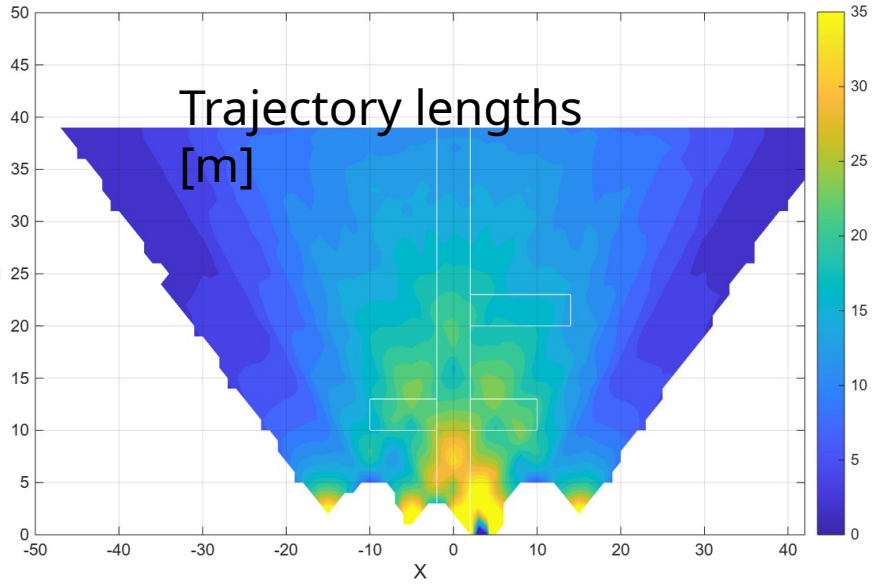


2D simulation in Janossy geometry (2D is the worst case in term of artifact)

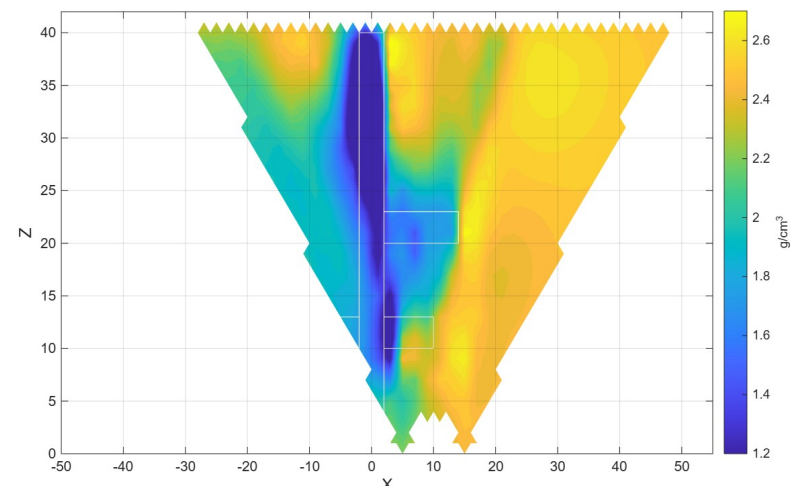
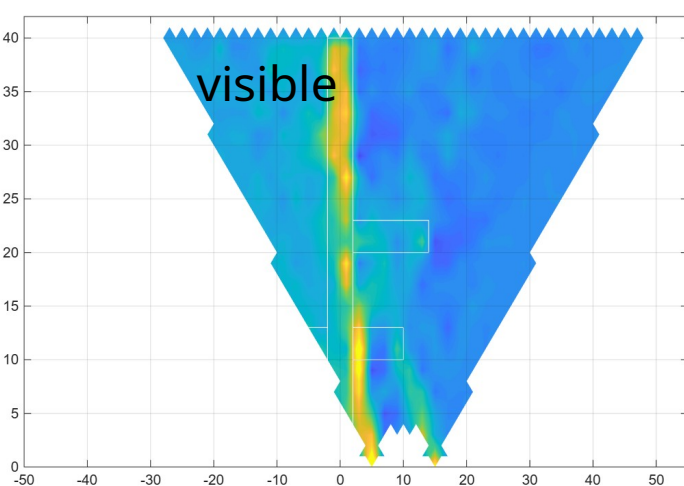
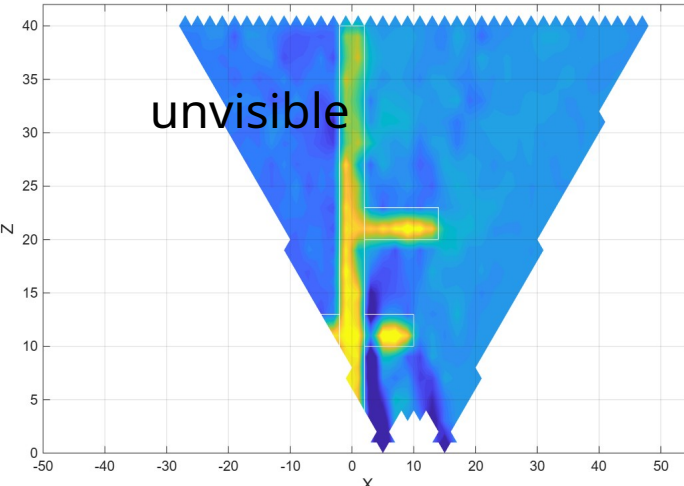
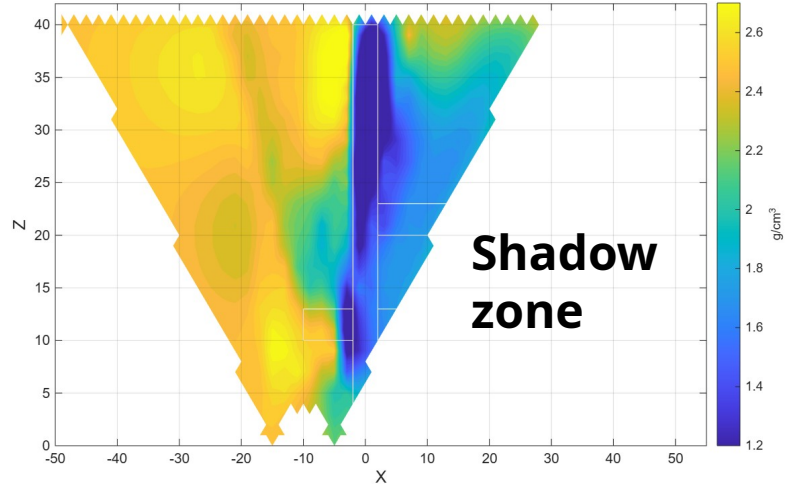
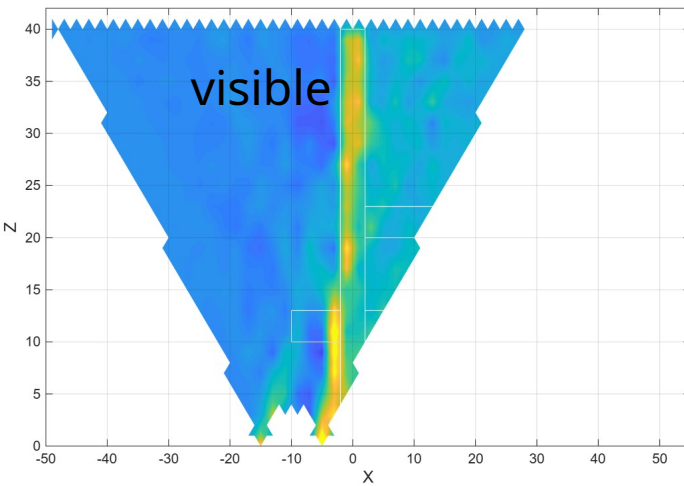
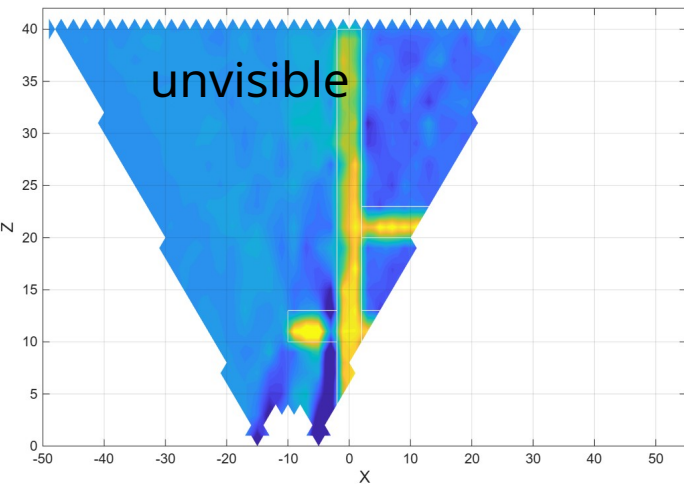
Muon tomography: Horizontal and vertical object distortion



2D simulation in Janossy geometry



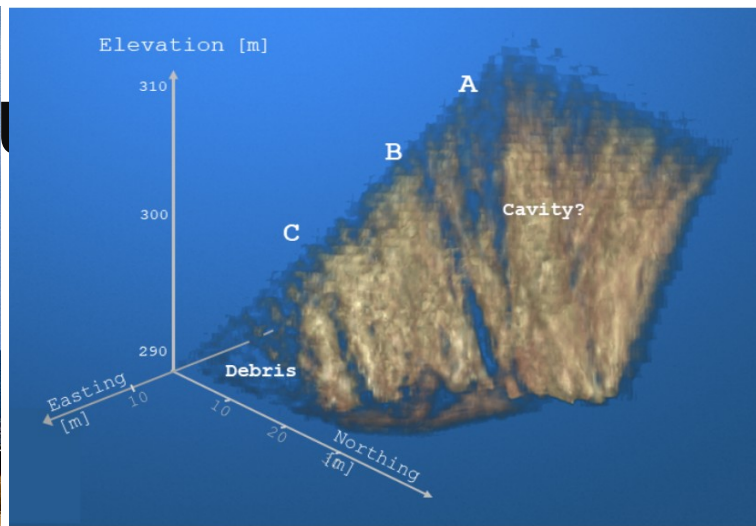
Muon tomography: One-sided measurements



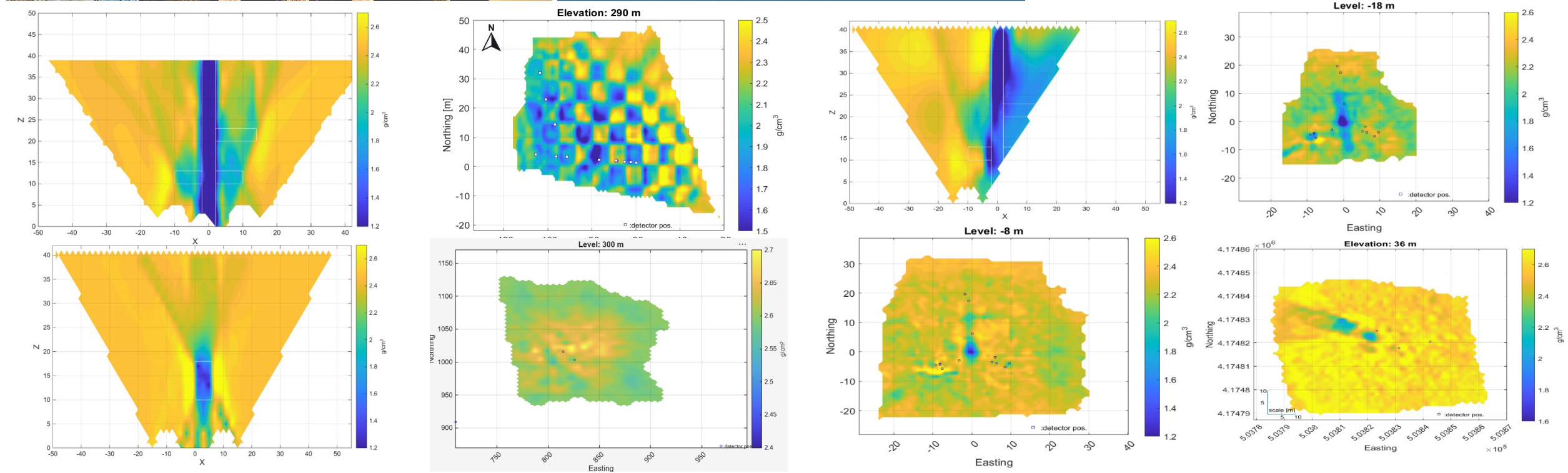
One-sided mapping – apparently tilted object + shadow zone

Muon tomography

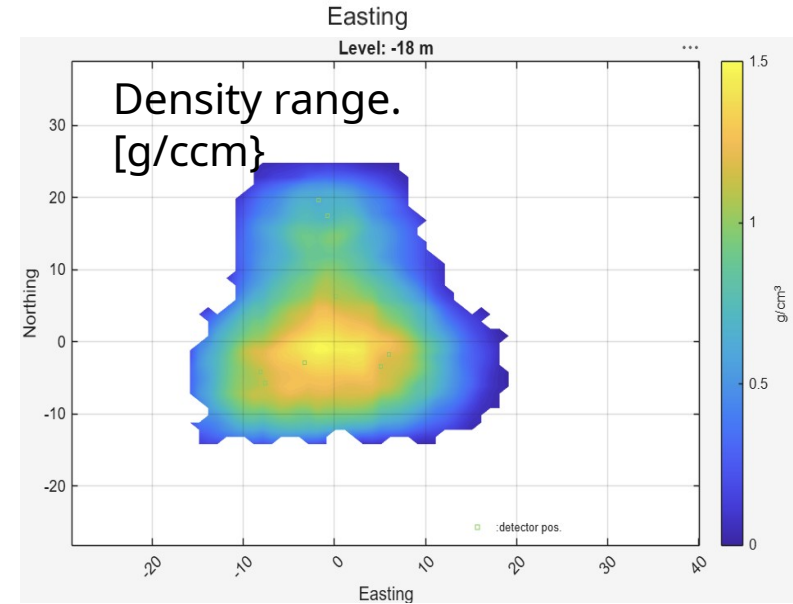
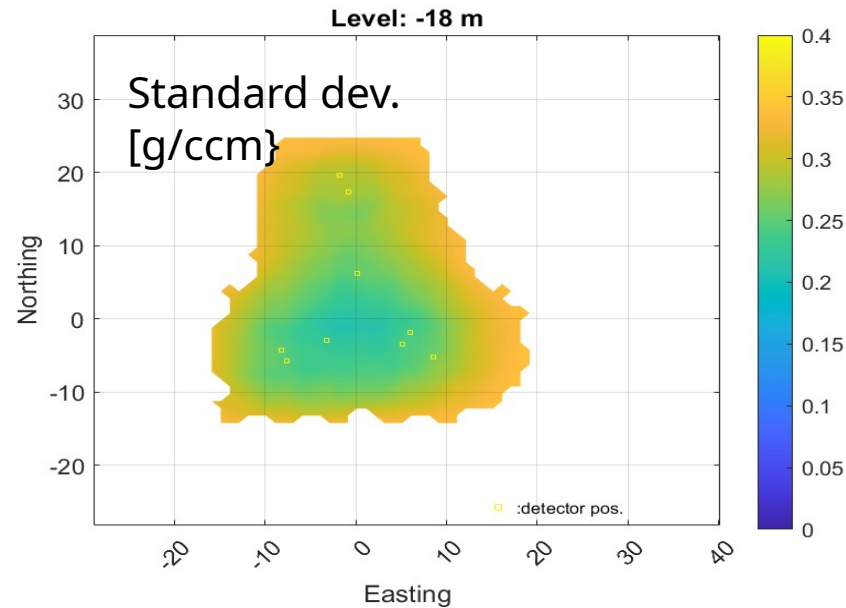
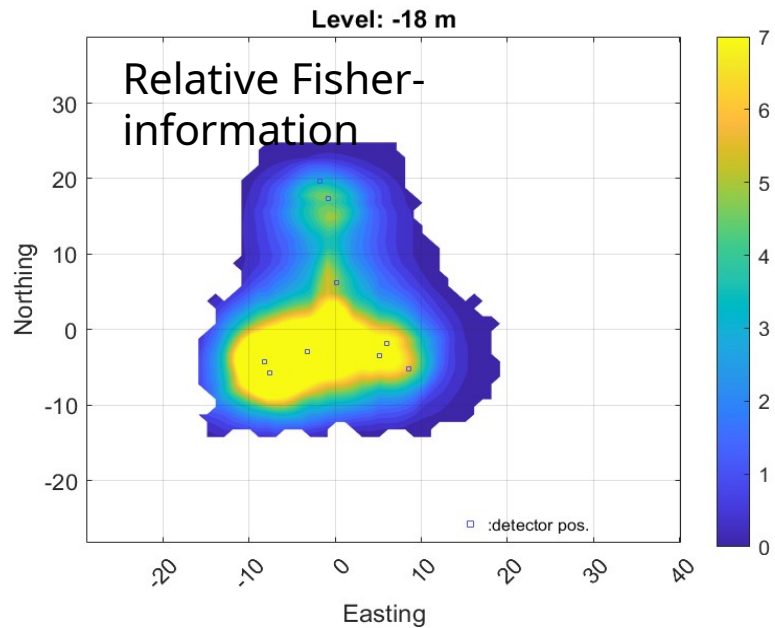
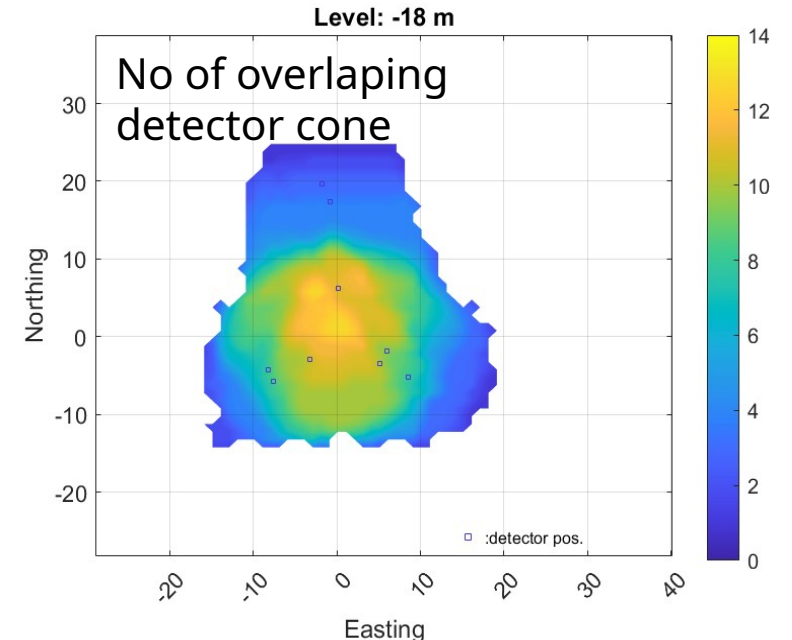
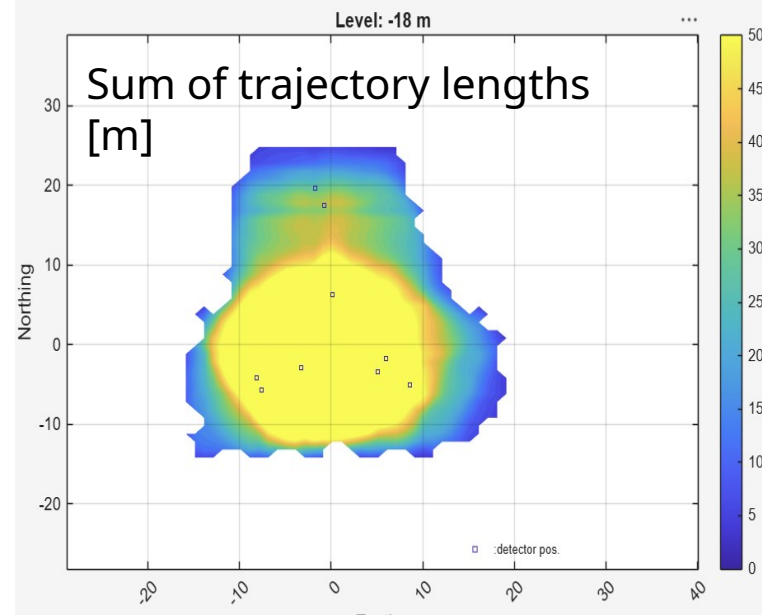
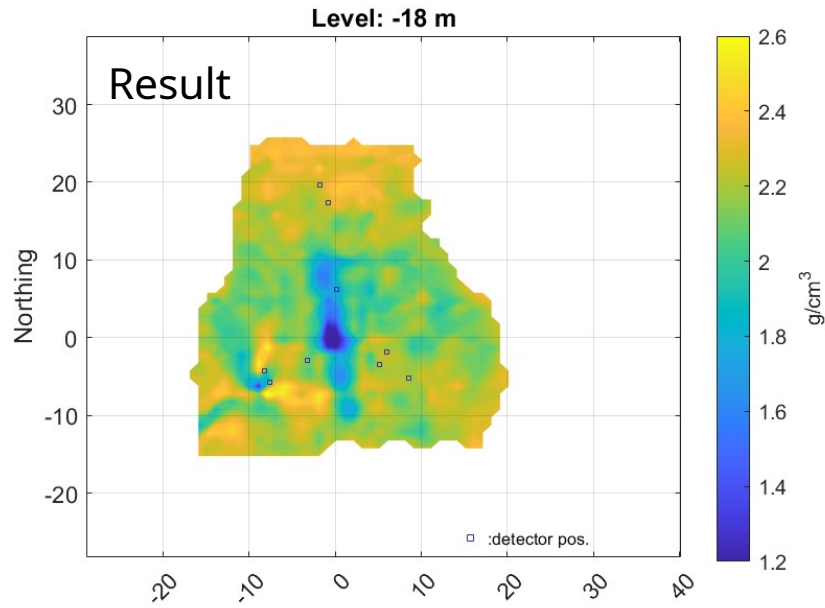
Thank you for your attention!



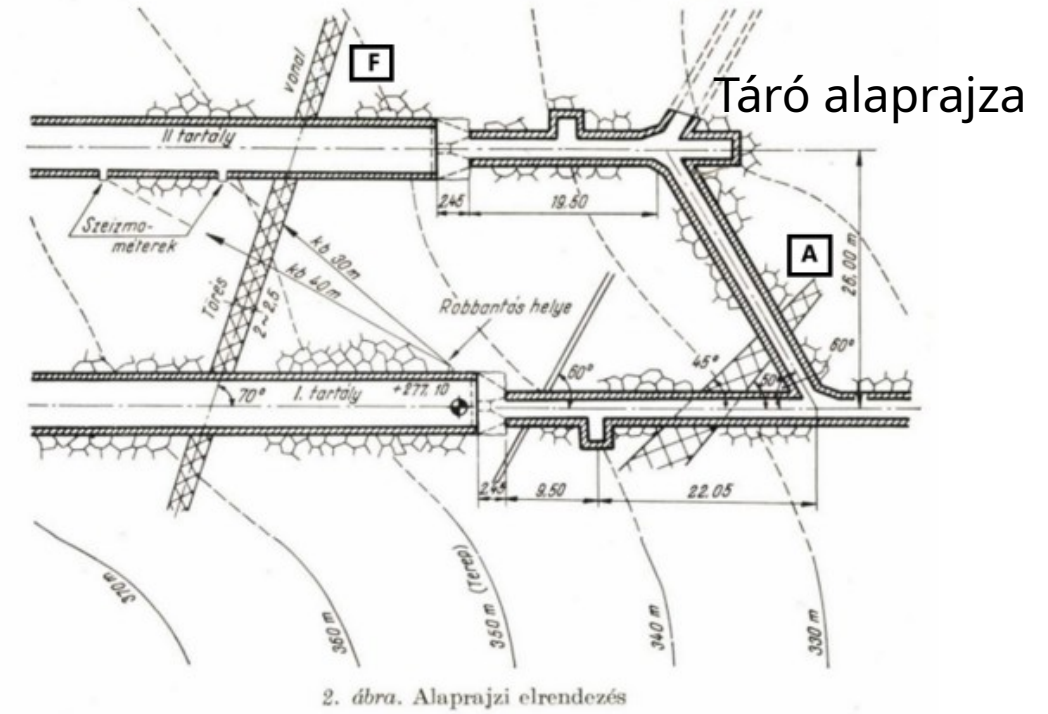
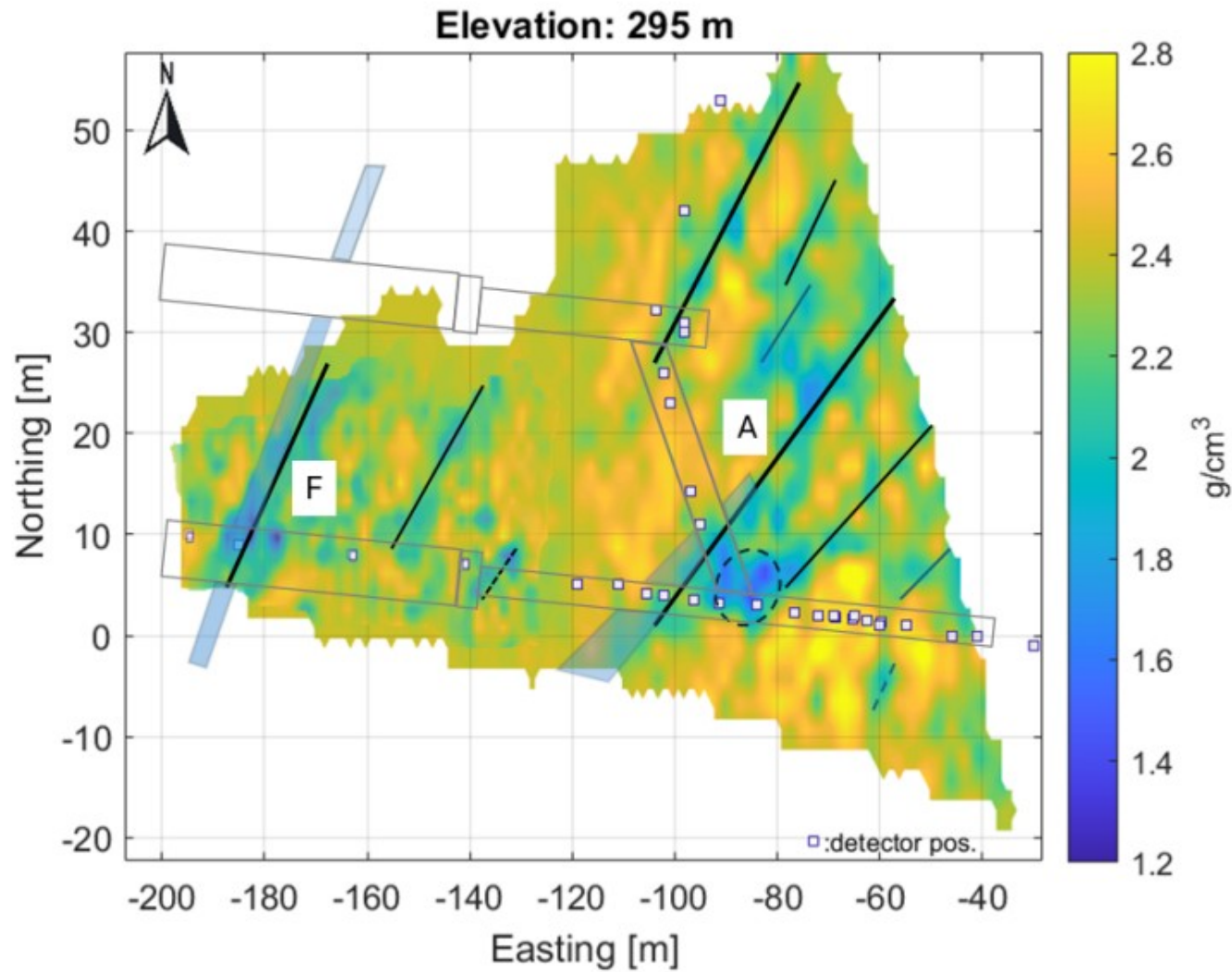
An album of characteristic bias and artefacts



Muon tomography: Focus range - Information distribut



Muon tomography: Extra



Justification of fault indication